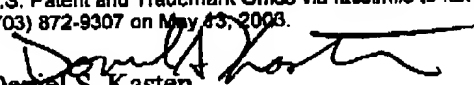


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

St. Louis, Missouri
February 3, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this document is being transmitted to the
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:	Rice et al.	Group No.:	1648
Serial No.:	09/576,989	Atty. Docket No.:	56029-4356
Filed:	05/23/2000		
For:	HCV Variants	Examiner:	Wortman, Donna C.

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

HONORABLE SIR:

Responsive to the Final Office Action of December 3, 2002, and the Advisory
Action dated April 24, 2003, Applicant submits the following Amendments and Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those which may
otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this Amendment. However, in